AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): A method of controlling a ~~mobile communications system~~radio network controller of a radio access network, wherein the radio network controller ~~which~~ comprises a plurality of control plane controllers and a plurality of user plane controllers, the method comprising:

implementing the plurality of user control plane controllers separate from said plurality of control plane controllers;

logically subordinating each user plane controller to only one control plane controller;

effecting transfer of status information between a user plane controller and a control plane controller other than the control plane controller to which the user plane controller is logically subordinate notwithstanding that the user plane controller is logically subordinate to another of said control plane controllers.

2. (currently amended): The method of controlling ~~a mobile communications system~~said radio network controller according to claim 1,

further comprising physically separating said plurality of user plane controllers from said plurality of control plane controllers.

3. (canceled).

4. (currently amended): The method of controlling said radio network controller~~a mobile communications system~~ according to claim 1, further comprising, including with said

status information bandwidth information of a channel directed to the outside from said plurality of user plane controllers.

5. (currently amended): The method of said radio network controller ~~controlling a mobile communications system~~ according to claim 1, further comprising, including with said status information alarm information detected in said plurality of user plane controllers.

6. (currently amended): The method of controlling said radio network controller ~~a mobile communications system~~ according to claim 1, further comprising, reporting from said plurality of user plane controllers said status information to one of said control plane controller upon receipt of a request for transmitting said status information from said control plane controller.

7. (currently amended): The method of controlling said radio network controller ~~a mobile communications system~~ according to claim 1, further comprising, reporting from said plurality of user plane controllers said status information to one of said control plane controller at a fixed period.

8. (currently amended): The method of controlling said radio network controller ~~a mobile communications system~~ according to claim 1, further comprising, reporting from said plurality of user plane controllers said status information to one of said control plane controller if a change is found in said status information.

9. (canceled).

10. (canceled).

11. (currently amended): A method of controlling a radio network controller of a radio access network, wherein the radio network controller ~~mobile communications system~~

~~which~~ comprises at least a first ~~a plurality of~~ control plane controller and a second control plane controller ~~controllers~~ and a user plane controller, the method comprising:

implementing said user plane controller separate from said ~~plurality of~~first and second control plane controllers;

logically subordinating said user plane controller to only ~~one of~~ said ~~plurality of~~first control plane ~~controllers~~controller;

effecting transfer of status information between the user plane controller and ~~a plurality of~~ said second ~~said~~ control plane controller ~~controllers~~ notwithstanding that the user plane controller is logically subordinate to only ~~one of~~ said first control plane controller.~~controllers~~

12. (currently amended): A mobile communications system comprising:

a radio network controller comprising:

a plurality of control plane controllers;

a plurality of user plane controllers separate from said plurality of control plane controllers;

wherein each user plane controller is logically subordinate to only one of said control plane ~~controller~~controllers; and

said mobile communication system further comprising:

means for effecting transfer of status information between a user plane controller and any of said control plane controllers notwithstanding that each user plane controller is logically subordinate to only one of said control plane controllers.

13. (previously presented): The mobile communications system according to claim 12,

wherein said plurality of user plane controllers are physically separated from said plurality of control plane controllers.

14. (canceled).

15. (previously presented): The mobile communications system according to claim 12,

wherein said status information includes bandwidth information of a channel directed to the outside from said plurality of user plane controllers.

16. (previously presented): The mobile communications system according to claim 12,

wherein said status information includes alarm information detected in said plurality of user plane controllers.

17. (previously presented): The mobile communications system according to claim 12,

wherein said plurality of user plane controllers further includes means for reporting said status information to one of said control plane controllers upon receipt of a request for transmitting said status information from said control plane controller.

18. (previously presented): The mobile communications system according to claim 12,

wherein said plurality of user plane controllers further includes means for reporting said status information to one of said control plane controller at a fixed period.

19. (previously presented): The mobile communications system according to claim 12,

wherein said plurality of user plane controllers further includes means for reporting said status information to one of said control plane controllers if a change is found in said status information.

20. (previously presented): The mobile communications system according to claim 12, further comprising:

at least one user equipment.

21. (canceled).

22. (canceled).

23. (currently amended): A mobile communications system comprising:

a radio network controller comprising:

a plurality of control plane controllers for storing status information in a memory; and

a user plane controller for reporting status information of said user plane controller to said plurality of control plane controllers;

wherein said plurality of control plane controllers comprises at least a first control plane controller and a second control plane controller and said user plane controller is logically subordinate only ~~one of~~ said first control plane controller ~~controllers~~; and

said mobile communication system further comprises:

means for effecting transfer status information between the user plane controller and a ~~plurality of~~ said second control plane controller ~~controllers~~ notwithstanding that the user plane controllers logically subordinate to only ~~one of~~ said first control plane ~~controllers~~controller.

24. (previously presented): The mobile communications system according to claim 23, comprising:

at least one user equipment.

25. (previously presented): The radio access network according to claim 12, including means for operating said plurality of control plane controllers when a user equipment located in an area of a first radio base station having a radio link established between said first radio base station and a first user plane controller subordinate to one of said control plane controllers moves to an area of a second radio base station, said second radio base station belonging to a second user plane controller subordinate to another of said control plane controllers, to refer to this another control plane controller for status information of said second user plane controller , and determining based on the status information of said second user plane controller that is received from this other control plane controller whether or not a radio link can be added at said second user plane controller.

26. (previously presented): The radio access network according to claim 25, wherein said one of said control plane controllers includes means for instructing said second user plane controller through said first user plane controller to add a radio link between said second user plane controller and said second radio base station when said one of said control plane controllers determines that a radio link can be added at said second user plane controller.